



March 20, 2012

SB 450

Written testimony of Rick Bologna, General Manager, Westmore Fuel Co., Inc.

Chair Fonfara, Chair Nardello, Members of the Committee on Energy and Technology.

My name is Rick Bologna and I come here today from Greenwich, representing Westmore Fuel Co., Inc. that employs 44 people and serves over 5400 customers.

Our company has been in business in Connecticut for 73 years. We live here, support the communities we serve, we pay taxes and create and maintain jobs here.

I come here today in opposition to SB 450. I am specifically asking to remove sections 1 and 4 from the bill. Section 1 opens the door to establishing a new tax on heating oil. My customers and all heating oil consumers in the state do not want to pay a HIGHER price on heating oil, putting a new tax in heating oil would do just that. Last year our state went through raising state taxes by \$1.5 billion and CT residents can't afford another tax. Also the state does not have a good record historically of managing tax funds on gasoline, and I believe funds from a new tax on heating oil would suffer the same fate as the state excise tax on gasoline.

Section 4 of the bill is actually requires the conversion of buildings using heating oil to now use natural gas. I don't understand how the state could take the choice of what heating fuel to use out of the consumers' hands. Our country was founded on freedom of choice, and this section is the opposite of that.

In closing, I respectfully request to remove sections 1 and 4 from SB 450 because they

are detrimental to my customers, my employees, and the future of my business.

Thank you.